

**Top Secret**

DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

# MEMORANDUM

## *The Situation in Vietnam*

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23 June 1967

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Information as of 1600  
23 June 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS

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I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:  
There were nearly 100 US casualties in the day-long battle in central Kontum Province on 22 June; 475 Communist troops were reported killed (Paras. 1-2). Evidence continues to mount that Communist forces in the western highlands of Pleiku and Kontum provinces are readying for attack (Paras. 3-5).

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II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:  
Premier Ky announced on 23 June that he will offer all presidential candidates adequate campaign facilities (Para. 1). There may be more than 20 lists of candidates for the upper house election (Paras. 2-3). General Thang, Minister of Revolutionary Development, publicly announced his intention to leave the military early next year (Para. 4).

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IV. Other Communist Military Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments: Polish politburo member Kliszko has departed Hanoi [redacted] [redacted] North Vietnamese chief of staff General Dung has commented on the air war over the DRV and stressed the importance of conventional antiaircraft weapons (Paras. 2-3).

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Elements of the US 173rd Airborne Brigade are continuing to sweep the area just southwest of Dak To in central Kontum Province following heavy fighting there on 22 June. The American troops, part of search-and-destroy Operation GREELEY, lost 76 killed and 22 wounded during the day-long battle in which a company-size patrol was surrounded. The Americans also lost 11 radios and 75 weapons.

2. The week-old operation, designed to seek out some of the more than 3,000 Communist troops believed to be in the area, has reportedly killed 477 Communist soldiers, all but two of them in the action on 22 June.

The Buildup in Western Pleiku and Kontum Provinces

3. Evidence continues to mount of impending Communist attacks in western and northern Pleiku Province.

A North Vietnamese soldier recently captured in this area has stated that he was from a unit which began its infiltration to South Vietnam early this year to reinforce the NVA 1st Division. Previously captured prisoners from both the 1st Division and from an independent regiment subordinate to the B-3 Front stated that their units received replacements from North Vietnam in late March and April.

4. [redacted] the location of a series of trails in the Laos - Cambodia - South Vietnam tri-border area which the North Vietnamese have used for infiltration. [redacted] four trails in this area, all hard-packed and all with a general north-south orientation. New communications wire was also observed parallel to one of the larger trails.

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5. [redacted] enemy forces intend to attack government hamlets and other allied installations north of Pleiku city and on Route 19 between Pleiku and An Khe. [redacted]

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[redacted] Viet Cong local guerrillas and militia, and the H-15 Main Force Battalion are presently assembling northeast of Pleiku with the mission of attacking New Life hamlets in this region.

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

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[redacted] Premier Ky told newsmen on 23 June that he will call together all presidential candidates on 1 July to discuss and arrange for such of their campaign needs as funds, transportation, protection, and the use of radio and television. Government facilities will be made available so that the candidates, in Ky's words, "will have nothing to say about the election being unfair." The recently promulgated presidential electoral regulations stipulate that all candidates will receive equal campaign facilities and that no candidate may enjoy greater access to these resources than the other.

Candidates for Senate

2. According to deputies in the Provisional National Assembly, there will probably be more than 20 lists of candidates for the upper house of the legislature. Six of the lists of ten men each will be elected on 3 September along with the president. The tabulation of each list will not be completed until 30 June, the deadline for filing applications, but preliminary reports indicate that Premier Ky will back at least six of them. Of the pro-Ky lists, two will receive the backing of the Catholic Greater Solidarity Force, one will consist of loyal members of the Democratic-Alliance Bloc of the assembly, one will be led by the present leader of the Hoa Hao religious sect, and one will be organized by retired southern General Tran Van Don. At least three other lists are sympathetic with Ky's candidacy.

3. A list organized by Directorate member General Pham Xuan Chieu will favor Thieu's candidacy, and two southern lists headed by former youth minister Vo Long Trieu and present Minister of Public Works Tran Ngoc Oanh will run with the blessing of Tran Van Huong. In addition, there are one or two lists associated with the Revolutionary Dai Viets in Central Vietnam, and several nondescript or independent groupings.

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4. Minister of revolutionary development, General Nguyen Duc Thang, publicly confirmed an earlier report that he intends to resign from military service. His public statement, however, gave no indication of his intention to leave his cabinet post as was also reported previously. Thang is reportedly discouraged by the criticism and lack of support for the RD program from the Corps commanders, their staffs, and province and district chiefs. In addition, Thang reportedly feels that the Vietnamese Army will never accept its role in RD.

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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

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2. On 21 June, a US Air Force reconnaissance aircraft was downed by a SAM approximately 75 miles west of Hanoi where no missiles were known to have been deployed previously. Rescue aircraft, which succeeded in recovering the pilot of the downed RF-101, also were subject to missile fire from a site which was reported to be about ten miles south of the unit which destroyed the reconnaissance plane. Although only one site may actually be involved, it is significant that SA-2 missiles have been deployed for the first time into the Laos border area [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] In recent months, the DRV has been concentrating its missile defenses around major military and urban targets in accordance with Soviet SA-2 doctrine. The lack of success with this procedure and a possible increase in the number of available firing units may have prompted the decision to extend SAM coverage to this relatively remote area.

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4. There are also continuing, if not conclusive, indications that the quality of the missiles in North Vietnam may have been improved somewhat. Pilot reports since the first of the year have referred to some SAMs tracking effectively at altitudes well below those normally ascribed to the SA-2 system.

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5. Most recently,

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some unusual single-shot firings around the capital which did not sound like the normal SA-2 launches with which the observer is familiar. Although the noises may be ascribed to heavy AAA firing,

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they could indicate the recent arrival of a new type of "low altitude" surface-to-air missile, which

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have recently arrived in the DRV. No firm evidence has been received, however, of the introduction of new low-altitude SAMs, such as the SA-3,

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into the DRV.

Moreover, the Soviets apparently do not regard the SA-3 as markedly better than advanced versions of the SA-2, since they do not seem to have been widely deployed within the Soviet Union itself. Thus it is unlikely that this system would be sent to the DRV.

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IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. Communist news services on 23 June reported that the Polish delegation to Hanoi headed by politburo member Zenon Kliszko left the DRV for home on 22 June. This is the first public announcement that Kliszko was in Hanoi.

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[REDACTED] For security reasons, Hanoi does not usually disclose visits by high-level Communist officials to North Vietnam until they have left the country. The news reports describe the delegations' trip as a friendship visit and indicate that central committee members Artur Starewicz, Edward Babiuch, and Joseph Czesak traveled to Hanoi in addition to Kliszko.

2. DRV chief of staff General Van Thien Dung has written a lengthy analysis of North Vietnam's air defense system, which appears to be essentially a propaganda document designed to commend North Vietnamese air defense achievements and pay tribute to the party's military leadership. In his efforts to stress the role of the Vietnamese and to minimize dependence on foreign assistance, Dung took pointed note of the inadequacies of Soviet-supplied missiles and jet aircraft. The article emphasized the importance and effectiveness of AAA and other relatively simple air defense equipment, and downplayed jet aircraft and missiles as "suitable only in some combat situations," and as having their own "limited activity and effectiveness."

3. The article also emphasized that the Hanoi leaders still plan on a long and protracted war--not only in the South but also in the North. General Dung stressed the ties between the two battlefields and asserted that the US views the bombing of the North as part of the war in the South. He predicted that the bombing will stop only "when the US has been defeated in the South."

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